



AMAA

News

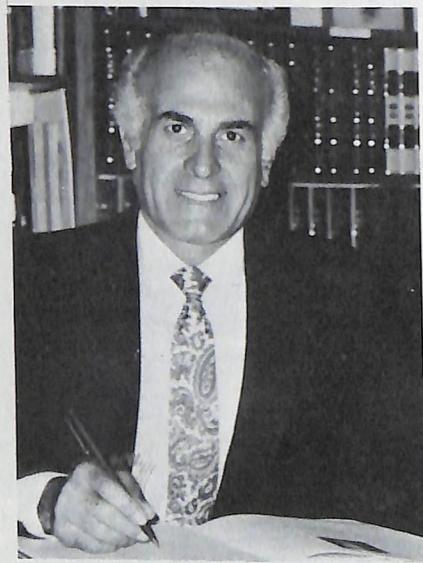
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Movses Boghos Janbazian



Benefactress Miss Elise Merdinian flanked by the children of the C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School of Sherman Oaks, CA.

THE REAL CHALLENGE OF THE PLIGHT OF THE VICTIMS OF AZERI POGROMS



Rev. Mouses B. Janbazian
Executive Director, AMAA

Once again, innocent Armenians were massacred by Turks. This time, the attackers were Azerbaijani Turks and their targets were the Armenians living in the cities of Azerbaijan and the villages in Artsakh (Karabagh) and those on the Armenian border.

This time, Turkish brutality was open to world view:

The crowds being exhorted by their leaders to "get rid of every Armenian in Azerbaijan by any means" the preferred means being torture and murder.

The mobs roaming Baku with mimeographed lists of Armenian names and addresses, helpfully provided by Azerbaijani officials.

Armenian men, women and children in Baku and other cities being thrown from their apartment windows, being torched alive, being maimed and murdered in other innovative ways.

Attacks on Armenian villages by well-armed bands of Azerbaijanis.

Azerbaijani officials declaring "war" on Armenia, supported by Muslim religious leaders preaching a "jihad" or holy war against "infidel" Armenian Christians.

By the time the Soviet authorities sent military units to Azerbaijan to restore order, hundreds of innocent Armenians

had been murdered and many thousands were driven from their homes and turned into helpless refugees.

The apparent cause of these latest attacks on Armenians is the Armenian territorial enclave of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh) which Joseph Stalin arbitrarily assigned to Azerbaijan in 1923. The Armenians of Artsakh, who constitute eighty-five percent of the population of the region, having endured 70 years of Azerbaijani oppression, want to exercise their right to self-determination. But the Azerbaijanis are outraged that their "subjects" are expressing discontent about an injustice that has been described as "a historic mistake" by Mikhail Gorbachev. The solution of the Azerbaijanis: pogroms and inhuman attacks on all Armenians within their reach.

the truth is that these latest atrocities against Armenians are yet another attempt by Turks to annihilate the Armenian nation.

It is this gruesome reality that makes the plight of the Armenians of Azerbaijan and Artsakh, as well as those in Armenia, not only a challenge to our compassion, but also an urgent reminder of our God-given responsibility to be "our brother's keeper." And the fulfillment of this responsibility requires much more than engaging in relief efforts to help our victimized brothers and sisters. God's will is that all men should have life and have it abundantly. Our obedience to His will, therefore, mandates that we dare to face the issues that bring about the denial of life to helpless people. Doing God's will implies that we have to engage in such activities and endeavors that will foster the creation of the necessary environment for the protection and preservation of God's gift of life.

God's will is that all human beings should be free, too. We cannot, therefore, remain indifferent to the plight of those who are robbed of their basic freedoms. Our duty to do God's will should compel us to come out of our circumscribed world of comfortable complacency and go to wherever evil men and nations use terror to impose their will on weaker people and nations.

It is also God's will that all men and nations should live in peace. And our prayer, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" will be a hypocritical babbling if we do nothing for the sake of peace. The peace that God wants for all men and nations is not only that inner feeling of serenity that the Holy Spirit instills in us. Nor is it merely the absence of tensions, conflicts or wars. Peace or "Shalom," in the word of God, has the connotation of health, wholeness, good life, long life, prosperity, physical safety and both political and spiritual security. God's vision of a world of Shalom, therefore, is a world free from racial injustice, war, oppression and threat to human

(Cont. on page 8)

by Mouses B. Janbazian

1989 AMAA ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) unanimously reelected Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian of Riverdale, NY, as President of the Association for fiscal 1989-90. Dr. Hovnanian is a physicist-engineer who recently retired as Vice President of Cooper Labs. His first year as President of the AMAA was marked by the earthquake in Armenia; the weeks that followed were extremely busy ones for the AMAA's staff and volunteers, requiring Dr. Hovnanian's presence at AMAA headquarters almost daily.

Also re-appointed to their offices at the November 18, 1989, meeting of the Board of Directors were: Ms. Elida N. Telfeyan of Great Neck, NY, as Vice President; Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, NJ, as Treasurer; Mr. Vahram Aynilian of Alpine, NJ, as Assistant Treasurer; Mr. Millard Bekmezian of Upper Darby, PA, and Mr. Harry Dulgarian of Belmont, MA, as Co-Recording Secretaries of the AMAA. Mr. Harold DeMirjian of Sherman Oaks, CA, was elected as West Coast Vice President of the Association.

Each year the AMAA carries out an election to replace the one-third of its 27 elected Board members whose three-year terms have expired. A slate of 16 candidates is presented to the membership, who mark their ballots and return them to AMAA headquarters for tabulation.

This year's successful candidates, who may be referred to as the "Class of 1992," are:

•Mr. Vahe Ashkarian (former member). Mr. Ashkarian lives in Torrance, CA, where he is engaged in real estate brokerage and development. He is an active member of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA, as well as an active participant in several other Armenian organizations.

•Nazareth E. Darakjian, M.D. (new member). Dr. Darakjian lives in Pasadena, CA. He is an eye physician and surgeon in private practice and an active member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA.

•Mr. Harold DeMirjian (former member). Mr. DeMirjian lives in Sherman



Oaks, CA. He is a petroleum engineer and a retired oil company executive. He is an active member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA.

•Mr. Robert S. Hekemian (former member). Mr. Hekemian lives in Tenafly, NJ, and is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Hekemian and Co., Inc., a large real estate and insurance firm based in Hackensack, NJ. He is an active member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

•Mr. Louis Kurkjian (new member). Mr. Kurkjian lives in Fullerton, CA. He is an electrical engineer and currently a Vice President of Hughes Aircraft Co. He is an active member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA.

•Ara Manougian, M.D. (former member). Dr. Manougian lives in Saddle River, NJ, and is engaged in private practice. He is an active member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

•Mark Momjian, Esq. (new member). Mr. Momjian lives in Philadelphia, PA, and is an attorney with the law firm of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis. He is a member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA, and is actively involved in many Armenian support organizations.

•Kenell J. Touryan, Ph.D. (new member). Dr. Touryan lives in Indian Wells, CO, and has a doctorate in aerospace and mechanical sciences. Currently he is Director of Energy Research at Tetra Corporation of Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Touryan travels and lectures extensively on topics relating to science and the Christian faith.

Each year seems to bring to the AMAA leadership a group of competent and dedicated individuals who give freely of their time and talents to the Association, and whose reward is the satisfaction of directing the AMAA's mission and service ministries in a prudent and effective manner.



Clockwise: Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, the reelected President of AMAA, and Vice Presidents, Mrs. Elida N. Telfeyan and Mr. Harold DeMirjian.

member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

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AMAA TEAM RETURNS FROM ARMENIA

A three-member team representing the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) returned shortly before Christmas from a ten-day trip to Armenia to check on AMAA projects in the quake-affected areas. The team consisted of The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA; The Rev. Rene Leonian, Chairman of the "Hope for Armenia" Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France; and Dr. Ara Manougian of Saddle River, NJ, Manager of AMAA's Mobile Medical/Psychiatric Clinic project.

The purpose of the visit was to select locations for the two mobile clinics; to distribute the medical supplies and equipment shipped with the clinics; to inspect the results of the AMAA's compressed earth (adobe) brick making project; to make arrangements for the distribution of Christmas packages to children orphaned by the earthquake; and to meet with government and religious leaders to discuss the current situation in Armenia.

It was decided to locate one of the mobile clinics at Surgical Hospital No. 2 in Leninakan, where it was badly needed and could be used effectively. The location of the second unit will be determined later. Dr. Manougian assembled the instruments in the clinic and instructed local doctors in their use.

The inauguration of the clinic was held during a moving ceremony on Friday, December 22, 1989. Those in attendance included the pastors and leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Baptist churches of Yerevan and Leninakan; representatives of the Ministry of Health; Director of the Health Care Department of Leninakan, Dr. L.S. Sutchian; Directors of the Leninakan area hospitals, Dr. Roupen Khachadrian, Dr. Setrak Khachadrian and Dr. V.D. Donikian; representatives of the mayor's office of Leninakan; and a large crowd of medical doctors, hospital personnel and members of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Leninakan. Addressing the assemblage with brief comments were Rev. Leonian, with words of encouragement and hope; Rev. Janbazian, with a scripture reading, a brief message and greetings from the



AMAA Representatives meeting with Dr. A. Aznavorian (second from right), Minister of Health for the Armenian Republic (top). Inauguration ceremony of AMAA Mobile Medical Clinic in Leninakan (middle). Dr. Ara Manougian and Rev. Movses Janbazian cutting the ceremonial ribbon (below).



Dr. Ara Manougian (left) presenting the keys of AMAA's Mobile Medical clinic to Dr. Setrak Khachadrian of Leninakan. Rev. Rene Leonian (left) and Rev. Mouses Janbazian (right) with Mr. Khachig Stambolian, Chairman of "Ktoutine" Compassion charitable organization.

Armenian Evangelical Churches of the diaspora, the AMAA and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, joint donors of the clinic and medical supplies; The Rev. Yuri Avanesian, with words of praise and thanksgiving; Dr. L.S. Sutchian, with words of thanks and appreciation; and Dr. S. Khachadrian, with words of gratitude on behalf of the hospital administration and staff. Following a prayer of dedication by The Rev. K. Malakian and the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon, Dr. Manougian presented to Dr. Khachadrian the key to the clinic. The people in attendance sang the "Hayr Mer" (the Lord's Prayer), "Der Voghormia" (Lord Have Mercy), and other hymns as guests toured the clinic and each doctor was presented with a Bible. "It was an unforgettable and touching experience, and many were visibly moved by the event," stated Rev. Janbazian in his report to the AMAA Board. The following comment by Dr. R. Khachadrian presents a revealing summation of the significance of the event: "We need all the material help that can be offered to us, but what we need most is the hope, spirit of solidarity and encouragement that our brothers, sisters and friends can offer to us with the kind of presence and visible love you showed to us today, through this event."

The medical supplies and equipment, valued at more than \$50,000, were distributed to four hospitals in Leninakan.

The AMAA's adobe brick making machine, jointly financed by the AMAA and the Prelacy of the Armenian



Rev. Janbazian teaching a Christmas song to children and their parents in Yerevan.

Apostolic Church of America, is in storage for the winter, but the team was able to see the results of this successful pilot project in the form of the outer and inner walls of an adobe brick model house. The machine in a six-month, frost-free period can produce enough bricks for the outer and inner walls of more than 100 houses. "The local people are very enthusiastic about this project," said Rev. Janbazian, "and they expressed high hopes that this project will make a significant contribution to the nation's rebuilding efforts."

The AMAA team, in a meeting with

His Holiness Vazken I, was told that more than 20 new churches have been opened in Armenia; that there is a shortage of priests and religious teachers; and that a great need for Bibles and religious literature exists, since many schools are now offering religious classes.

The Armenian Evangelical Baptist Church in Yerevan is seeking a suitable piece of land as the site of a future church building, since its current quarters are inadequate. Its sister church in Leninakan will also move into a new building, since its current quarters were badly damaged by the earthquake.

A major concern throughout Armenia is the Karabagh question and its ramifications. The Azerbaijanis have effectively blockaded ground transport to and from Armenia. Now the well-armed Azerbaijani Turks are attacking and killing Armenians in Baku and other towns in Azerbaijan and carrying out well-organized, murderous attacks on Armenians in Karabagh and in border villages in Armenia. Since the Soviet army and police seem unwilling to intervene, the plight of Armenians is likely to worsen.

The AMAA is determined to do everything it can to promote the physical and spiritual welfare of Armenians in the Motherland and to urge those in authority to find a peaceful solution to end the violence directed against Armenians.



Unloading the crates containing the components of AMAA's water-pumping windmill at "Zvartnotz" Airport in Yerevan, Armenia.

A WATER-PUMPING WINDMILL FOR ARMENIA

Recently, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) shipped to Armenia, by air, a water-pumping windmill as part of its \$2 million rehabilitation program for the survivors of the earthquake of December 7, 1988. This unit is capable of pumping water from depths of nearly 2,000 feet. At a depth of about 600 feet, this unit, the Wind Baron, can pump water at a steady rate of 50 gallons per hour in a 5 mph breeze. A 10 mph wind, which is common in the Spitak area, would triple this

flow rate. From a depth of 150 feet, the flow rate would be 200 gallons per hour in a 5 mph breeze.

With the Azerbaijanis cutting off rail access and fuel supplies to Armenia, and the Russian authorities apparently unable or unwilling to restore order, the energy shortage in Armenia is critical. Water pumps that do not use fossil fuel, such as the Wind Baron, are now of immense value to Armenia.

This project, directed by Dr. Kenell J. Touryan on behalf of the AMAA, has the approval and cooperation of representatives from Yerevan State University and

Yerevan Polytechnique Institute, who have visited the United States to witness wind-powered pumps and generators in action.

The cost of one turbine, including the services of technicians to help set up the unit and train its operators, is \$40,000, a sum provided jointly by AMAA and Church World Service of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The AMAA is negotiating with the manufacturer of this unit, the Tetra Corporation of Albuquerque, NM, to secure a licensing agreement so that these units may be manufactured in Armenia.

DIRECTORY OF ARMENIAN-AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTISTS

September, 1989, marked the publication of the first edition of the *Directory of Armenian-American Behavioral Scientists*, a 25-page booklet containing information on some 304 professionals living in North America. The Directory identifies Armenian-Americans working in the behavioral sciences and is designed to simplify easy communication among them.

The Directory represents the outcome of a cooperative effort by three organizations. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the

Diaspora Foundation, which have been concerned about effective and unified efforts by U.S. professionals to aid in earthquake relief, provided funds to the Armenian Behavioral Science Association (ABSA) to gather, print and distribute the Directory. It was produced under the general editorship of Dr. Harold Takooshian of Fordham University, with the cooperation of colleagues at other universities.

A primary purpose of the Directory is to identify professionals available for earthquake relief efforts. Other uses are clear

as well, such as identifying local speakers for a school or organization; finding expert consultants for social service, research or therapy; and helping advanced students to locate an advisor for their work.

Single copies of the Directory are free of charge upon request by interested organizations and individuals. Send your address and stamps (\$.45 in the U.S.) to cover postage to: **Dr. H. Takooshian, Fordham University 916, New York, NY, 10013.**

AMAA CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKAGES FOR ORPHANS IN ARMENIA

A few months ago the AMAA, having identified over 900 Armenian boys and girls who had lost both parents in the recent earthquake, established an Armenian Earthquake Orphan Committee (AEOC). Appointed co-Chairpersons were Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian of Los Angeles, CA, and Mrs. Michele Simourian of Dover, MA. Thanks to the energy and dedication shown by the co-Chairpersons and the cooperation of many volunteers, Christmas this year was a little brighter for these orphans.

About 1,000 boxes were individually packed with winter clothing (down jackets, vests, gloves, undergarments, etc.), dried fruit, nuts, milk, school supplies and various other items in accordance with the age and sex of the intended recipient. Some of the goods were donated by concerned companies, and the rest were purchased with contributions made in response to special AMAA appeals. The boxes themselves—sturdy cardboard cartons—were a gift from Enterprise Corrugated Container Corp. of Saddle Brook, NJ. The packing, sealing and labeling of the boxes were carried out at a warehouse near AMAA headquarters by a group of volunteers under the supervision of Mrs. Simourian and Mrs. Mary Jane Hekemian of Tenafly, NJ.

On January 3, 1990, the boxes, to-



Co-Chairmen of AMAA's Armenian Earthquake Orphan Care Committee, Michelle Simourian, and Elizabeth Agbabian.



gether with other Armenia relief supplies and equipment, were shipped directly to Yerevan on a Southern Air Transport plane chartered by the United Armenian Fund. Accompanying the shipment was Mr. Zaven Khanjian of Glendale, CA. Flying separately to Armenia on behalf of the AMAA's Armenian Earthquake Orphan Committee were The Rev. Berdj Djambazian, pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA; Mrs. Mary Jane Hekemian, member of the Committee; Mrs. Juliette Vartanian, member of the Committee from Chicago, IL; and Mr. Dikran Youmashkian, Office Coordinator for the

AMAA. During his recent trip to Armenia, The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA, made arrangements with Mrs. Laura Vartanian, Director of the Yerevan-based Children's Fund of Armenia, for the AMAA representatives and Committee members to distribute the packages at Christmas gatherings in various communities in the earthquake affected areas.

The AMAA will send other packages to these orphans at intervals throughout this year and in future years; the frequency and contents of these shipments will depend on the responsiveness of AMAA's members and friends.

AMAA'S BRICK-MAKING PROJECT IN ARMENIA A SUCCESS

Upon his return from a 12-day trip to Armenia, The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA, stated that the joint AMAA/Armenian Prelacy adobe-brick production project is a great success in Armenia and that the news of the project has created a lot of enthusiasm among the homeless in the earthquake-stricken areas.

Last November, after several months of research, planning and organizing, a compressed earth (adobe) brick-making

machine was flown to Armenia. This project, financed jointly by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America in New York, was to serve as a pilot project to test its feasibility in Armenia. Mr. Vaheh Gharaman, a structural engineer from Boston, MA, accompanied the shipment which included, in addition to the machine, spare parts, tools, and supplies, as well as a truck donated by Mr. John

Mirak of Arlington, MA. Also flying to Armenia for this project were Mr. K. George Najarian of Lincoln, MA, the AMAA appointed manager of the project; his assistant, Mr. David M. Najarian of Boston, MA; and a four-man technical assistance team, which included Dr. John Wright, inventor of the machine, from Advanced Earthen Construction Technologies, Inc. (AECT) of San Antonio, TX, manufacturers of the machine.

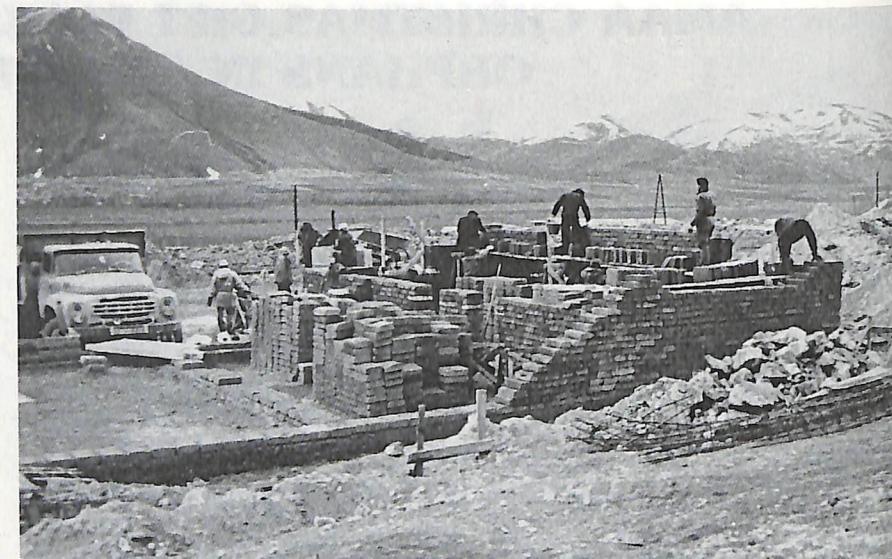
On November 20, the equipment was transported by road to Spitak and set up for operation at a predetermined site. During the next eleven days, whenever weather conditions permitted, the machine ran successfully as local workers were trained in its use. By December 2, the weather had become so cold and wintry that the machine was placed in storage until spring.

Mr. Najarian, the Project Manager, upon his return from Armenia submitted a report to the AMAA. His conclusions include the following observations:

- This machine, under good conditions, is capable of producing up to 11,000 blocks per day.

- House foundations should be prepared beforehand so that the machine's output may be put to use efficiently.

- A severe shortage in Armenia of cement and building stone enhances the value of a machine that produces building blocks of compressed earth.



The exterior walls of model house in Spitak, being built of adobe bricks made by the AMAA-donated machine.

An incentive system for the local workers who will operate the machine will enhance the machine's output.

It is anticipated that from early spring

to late fall, 1990, the machine will be able to produce enough bricks to build the inner and outer walls of more than 150 houses in the earthquake-affected areas.

THE REAL CHALLENGE (Continued from page 2)

lives. As the children of God, we are called to labor and sacrifice for this kind of a Shalom for Armenians and other victimized peoples and nations wherever and whoever they may be.

Yes, the plight of the victims of the recent Azeri atrocities against Armenians challenges our compassion, moving us to rush humanitarian aid to the victims. But the real nature of the threat against Armenians in Azerbaijan, as well as in Armenia proper, calls for our Christian and prophetic duty to seek and do God's will by securing the life, freedom and peace of Armenians and all suffering nations.

The innocent blood of Armenians shed in Baku, Sumgait and other cities and towns of Azerbaijan should be an added reminder of our Christian commitment to the Biblical vision of a world of Shalom where never again our people or any nation or individual will be persecuted or murdered because of religion or race. May God strengthen us in this pledge and resolve.

The tragedy of the Armenian earthquake isn't just the people who died. It's the children they left behind.



The Armenian earthquake has left thousands of children homeless, hungry and alone. With the onset of winter, many continue to live in overcrowded, makeshift shelters. Your help is desperately needed to pay for food, housing, clothing and medical care.

remember the orphans of Armenia. Your love and compassion can relieve the misery. And bring a smile to a child's face.

Here's what your gift can do:

- \$100 will provide a child with food, clothing and school supplies for 6 months
- \$200 will help a child for a year
- \$1000 will help 5 children for a year
- Other

YES, I'm enclosing my gift of \$ _____ to help the Armenian orphans.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to AMAA/Armenian Earthquake Orphan Fund

Mail with your gift to:
Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Armenian Earthquake Orphan Fund

A TIME WHEN CHANGE MEANS DISINTEGRATION

Editors Note: Paul Haidostian is an AMAA fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary studying for a Doctorate degree in Pastoral Theology. Last Summer he was sent by the AMAA to Syria and Lebanon to work with the youth groups associated with the Armenian Evangelical Churches in those countries. The following is his report.

Time means change, and that is fine. But what does one do in a situation when time and change mean disintegration?

The status of the Armenian communities in the Middle East is constantly changing, and much in it is disintegrating. There is suffering, uncertainty, loss, separation, and despair.

What does one do in a deteriorating situation like that?

After spending a good part of my summer vacation in Syria, I am increasingly convinced that there is much to do, and that Christian ministry is certainly related to time and change but it is not necessarily controlled by them. Christian ministry means living in the service of the Lord of time and change who sends His ministers especially into disintegrating societies and deteriorating situations to challenge the world and to bring Good News to bad situations.

Because of the continuing fighting and tension, our churches in Lebanon could not have their regular summer camps, although they kept meeting, worshipping and serving even in the worst times. I heard stories of people falling into depression or having nervous breakdowns, churches and schools being hit by shells and people getting injured and being killed, but I also heard about ministers and lay leaders who were reaching out to the needy, praying with them and encouraging them, and some working on their computers even in bomb-shelters.

The situation in Syria was different. The Armenian communities there live in secure surroundings and churches function regularly. That is where I served for two months last summer.

In addition to participating and preaching in regular Sunday and weekday services in various churches, I had

the opportunity to speak at the young adults' annual conference in Kessab, which was attended by 110 young people. This was a whole week of heavenly blessings where young men and women worshipped, studied the Bible, played, took trips and sang, all in Armenian. Each young life there was a miracle, a promise from the Lord that the future is bright for those who remain faithful to their call.

The C.E. Conference center in Kessab hosted many other conferences as well, most of which were organized by the Christian Endeavor Union of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The mood and message of these conferences were carried to the various churches, mainly in Aleppo, where ministers and lay leaders



Mr. Paul Haidostian



Some of the participants of the Christian Endeavor Youth Camp in Kessab, Syria—summer 1989.

continued their ministry through personal work and youth rallies. My and other leaders' best encouragement was to see how youths responded to God's Word. Some seemingly hopeless cases among our youth were suddenly changed through the Spirit to dedicated lives!

Yes, there are a lot of things which are getting worse in the Middle East, but all these do not eliminate our mission among our people there. In fact, they multiply our missionary obligations. This is the time when the Lord calls us to give a simple message to a complicated situation: Only the Lord can save. The Lord

Paul Haidostian
Princeton, Sept. 1989

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE DONATES \$80,000 TO AMAA FOR ARMENIAN ORPHAN CARE

The Church World Service (CWS) of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC) recently donated to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) the sum of \$80,000 to be allocated to the Armenian Earthquake Orphan Fund project of the Association. The generous gift was presented to the AMAA by Ms. Kenlynn K. Schroeder, Director of National Disaster Response of CWS.

The CWS has been extremely active and generous in its response to the devastating earthquake in Armenia. In the months immediately following the earthquake, CWS contributed more than a million dollars worth of medical supplies, clothing and other relief items. Since then, CWS has also allocated half a million dollars for housing construction in Armenia and nearly as much for AMAA's Armenia Relief projects. Church World Service's response to the earthquake in Armenia to date exceeds \$2.2 million.

Armenians everywhere are most grateful for the generosity and genuine compassion CWS has shown and continues to show for the survivors of the disastrous earthquake of December 7, 1988.

CHILDREN CARING FOR CHILDREN

On November 18, 1989, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) embarked on a project to send Christmas packages of clothing and food to nearly 1000 Armenian orphans who had lost both parents in the earthquake of December, 1988.

On November 29th, the students of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School of Bayside, NY, expressed an interest in sharing in this endeavor. The AMAA sent coin banks to the school in care of Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian. In one week, these children had not only given their monies amounting to \$140.00, they had also gone out and purchased clothing. The huge box they donated included mittens, hats, jackets, sweaters, socks, jump suits and much more. On each gift a note was



AMAA Vice President, Mrs. Elida N. Telfeyan, accepting the gift of the Holy Martyrs Armenian School students.

attached giving the name of the donor. Some also had included little messages to "an Armenian brother or sister from your friend."

The Students of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School felt an urgent need to help the children who suffered through the earthquake. They responded with love and generosity.

PRIZE WINNERS DONATE TO AMAA

Armenian Life Weekly, in an expression of gratitude towards its thousands of readers across California and beyond, had organized a Grand Prize Drawing. The Drawing offered two equal prizes of a one-week vacation in Hawaii, including hotel and airfare.

The two prizes were won, respectively, by Mr. Armen Tatian of Sacramento, CA, a long-time reader of Armenian Life Weekly (Hai Gyank) and by Mr. Hagop Yegnukian of New York, NY, also a subscriber since the inception of the publication.

Immediately upon receiving the good news, Mr. Armen and Mrs. Alice Tatian expressed their wish to donate the prize money to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) toward AMAA's earthquake relief efforts for Armenia. Although prize drawing conditions would not allow prizes to be converted to cash, the management of Armenian Life Weekly made an exception in this case and forwarded the donation to AMAA on behalf of the winners.



Mr. Armen and Mrs. Alice Tatian.

ARMENIANS OF PITTSBURGH DONATE TO AMAA'S ARMENIA RELIEF FUND

The Armenian-American Club of Pittsburgh, a group of 100 Armenian families in the Greater Pittsburgh area, has donated \$33,972.49 to the Armenia Earthquake Relief Fund of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on March 31, 1977, and dedicated to promoting, preserving and enriching Armenian cultural heritage, the Armenian-American Club of Pittsburgh presented the check to AMAA on behalf of the Armenian community of Pittsburgh.

According to information provided by Mr. George Hagopian, President, the most significant objective and goal of the Armenian-American Club of Pittsburgh has been to build an Armenian Nationality Classroom at the University of Pittsburgh. One of 23 nationality rooms encircling the half-acre Commons Room in the Cathedral of Learning at the University, it was completed and presented to the public in August, 1988. The room's limestone architecture was adapted from the library at the Sanahin Monastery, founded in the 10th Century in Northern Armenia. The second nationality room to be dedicated in 30 years, the Armenian Nationality Classroom features a four-arched-support ceiling with 13-foot tall domed skylight effect, simulated opening to the sky, or *yertik*; candle niche;

Heritage Wall with the names of famous Armenians in such fields as music and literature; as well as a 24-carat gold-leafed plaque incised with the 36 letters of the Armenian alphabet.

CALIFORNIA COMMENDS AMAA

Last July the California State Senate passed a resolution commending the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) for "joining many equally humanitarian and patriotic organizations in rendering spiritual, moral and financial support for those people who experienced the devastation of the December 7, 1988, earthquake in Soviet Armenia."

The AMAA expressed its appreciation to State Senator David Roberti for his warmhearted friendship toward Armenians in California and his efforts to help the survivors of the earthquake in Armenia.

Senator Roberti personally presented the Senate Resolution to Mr. Harold DeMirjian, Vice President of the AMAA, on July 23, 1989, at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, California.

SOVIET ARMENIA REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

Rev. Yuri Avanessian, pastor of the Yerevan Armenian Evangelical Baptist Church in Soviet Armenia, was among the 4,000 pastors, evangelists and lay Christian workers who participated in the Lausanne II Conference held in Manila, The Philippines, in July, 1989. Rev. Avanessian's participation, made possible through the good offices and financial support of the AMAA, marked the first time a representative of the Armenian Evangelical Baptist churches in Soviet Armenia has attended an international religious conference. In fact, Rev. Avanessian was the only Armenian participant from the Soviet Union.

Other Armenian delegates to this Conference included Dr. Kenell J. Touyan and Aram & Margaret Stepanian from the United States; and Rev. Meguerditch Maraguezian, Mr. Nerses Balabanian and Mr. John Sagherian from Lebanon.



Armenian participants in the Lausanne II Conference. Rev. Yuri Avanessian is second from left.

ALBERT DARAKJIAN, COMPOSER

Since he retired from a teaching career 12 years ago, Albert Darakjian of Westlake Village, CA, has devoted his energies to music. He has, so far, composed five symphonic suites and several choral works and hymns. Mr. Darakjian's inspiration, he says, comes from his Armenian roots and from Armenian folk melodies.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Darakjian.

Mr. Darakjian is a longtime supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and its various Christian missions. In fact, he has established an endowment fund for this purpose.

Mr. Darakjian is serving his fellow Armenians both tangibly through his generosity and aesthetically through his compositions.

A PARAPHRASED BIBLE STORY OF JESUS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), in cooperation with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Tehran, Iran, recently completed the printing, in the Eastern Armenian dialect, of a unique volume of the paraphrased Gospel story of the life and work of Jesus. It was printed in Tehran, Iran, and underwritten by the AMAA. The writing and research work was done by Mr. Apraham Hovasapian, Editor of the "Sourhantag" monthly of Tehran, Iran. The book has 407 pages, with color illustrations and an attractive binding.

This effort was made in response to the need for having a textbook to be used in the Christian Education of our young generation in Iran. Since the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian authorities have banned the import of Bibles or other Christian literature. The printing of this volume will meet the need for effective teaching aids for the religious instruction in our community in Iran.

The AMAA in planning to reprint this same volume in America for distribution in Armenia. The Association is seeking sponsors to undertake this very important project and appeals for funds to finance this endeavor to provide the word of God to our youth in Soviet Armenia. Contributions to this project may be sent to:

Armenian Missionary Association
of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST OPEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is pleased to announce the opening of its annual James G. Jameson Essay Contest. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economy and history.

Awards will be made in two categories: (1) High School contestants and (2) College/University contestants. Entries will be accepted until May 31, 1990.

Any Armenian or part-Armenian high school or college/university student is eligible. Unpublished entries only will be accepted. The winners in each category will be awarded \$200 each, provided from the income of a special Essay Contest Fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA. The Jamesons have established the Fund through a generous donation to the AMAA to stimulate a desire in Armenian youth to enhance their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and no more than one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious, no award will be granted.

A panel of three judges will evaluate contest entries. Awards will be based on style, language, accuracy of facts, extent of research and relevance of the essay to Armenian youth.

Entries or inquiries should be directed to:

James G. Jameson Essay Contest
Armenian Missionary Association
of America, Inc.
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Among the 1989 college entries, the \$200 prize for best essay was awarded to Ms. Bridget E. Kelly of Marshfield, MA, for her essay entitled, "A New Life." The

1989 winner of the \$200 first prize among high school entries was Ms. Armine Adourian of Downsview, Ontario, Canada, for her essay entitled, "Mother Ararat."

MR. JOHN S. BOGOSIAN HONORED



Mr. John S. Bogosian

On Wednesday, October 4, 1989, the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Armenian Church Youth Committee of Wynnewood, PA, held their second annual Humanitarian Award Banquet. This year's recipient was Mr. John S. Bogosian, president and owner of Camera Shop, Inc., which has 40 outlets in three states. He was chosen for his outstanding service and leadership in both the Armenian and American communities.

Mr. Bogosian was born in Philadelphia, PA, in 1927 and is a graduate of the Wharton Business School. He is a former Board member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and for many years has been a generous supporter of the AMAA and its various ministries.

A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT THANKS THE AMAA

I am again touched and deeply grateful to the Armenian Missionary Association of America for the generous assistance extended toward my college education in the form of \$1000 scholarship. I would also like to thank the benefactors of this scholarship. The caring and generosity shown by the AMAA and its members is

very admirable.

God has continued to bless my efforts as I still have a 4.0 GPA and am continually blessed in all areas of my life. I hope to go overseas when I graduate to try a short term (ca. 1 year) missions project, and am taking the steps necessary to prepare for this venture. I may decide to become a long term missionary if I feel so led. I will certainly keep in touch to let you know if I make any definite plans.

Paul Kitabjian

AMAA MISSION NOTES

The Rev. Jean Agopian of Lyon, France, has been appointed as interim president of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France (AEU-F), following the untimely death of The Rev. Jean-Daniel Sahagian last August.

The Rev. Dr. Hovhannes N. Karjian has decided to extend for one more year his interim ministry with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Australia.

The pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, Brazil, The Rev. Alberto Darahdjan, will terminate at year-end his pastoral ministry with the church in order to assume a special missionary assignment with a Hispanic church in California. The Sao Paulo church is earnestly seeking a pastor for its soon-to-be-vacated pulpit.

The Armenian Evangelical Baptist Church of Yerevan, Armenia, has finally received government authorization for the relocation of its church building.

The United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church of Troy, NY, has extended a call to The Rev. Joanne E. Gulezian-Hartunian, who has responded and accepted the pastorate of the church. As far as we know, this is the first time an Armenian church has called a female pastor. Rev. Gulezian-Hartunian's Installation took place on Saturday, October 28, 1989.

The Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian of Aleppo, Syria, arrived in Montreal, Canada, last July to assume the pastorate of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal.

"MERDINIAN SCHOOL BANQUET RAISES \$40,000

Fifteen thousand dollars were donated outright to the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School during its Eighth Annual Banquet on October 21, 1989. The event itself netted another \$25,000 for the programs of the School.

The banquet, attended by more than 360 people, was held in the Avazian Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church in Hollywood, CA.

Sebu Tashjian of Los Angeles, CA, was the Master of Ceremonies, and The Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Honorary Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was the keynote speaker at the banquet.

Hamo Vanerian made the welcoming remarks. School Principal Aram Boolghourjian, Chairman of the Board Zaven Khanjian and The Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church, spoke on the need for financial contributions from the community to provide to Armenian children a quality Christian education as well as courses in Armenian Language, Art and History.

A recent budget for fiscal year 1989-1990 shows an anticipated income of \$640,000 and expenses of \$720,000 leaving an \$80,000 deficit.

Several people were honored and



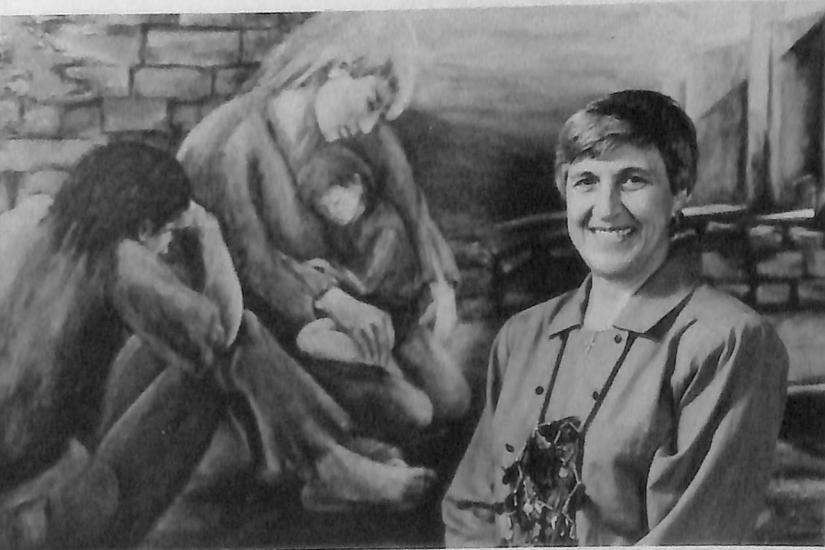
Benefactress, Miss Elise Merdinian, flanked by friends and PTO members of the Merdinian School.

given plaques of commendation during the banquet for their contribution to the school.

Charles Ezgulian provided the musical accompaniment during the dinner. Later in the program, he accompanied soprano

Maral Parseghian during her performance. Also, as part of the program, a video presentation gave detailed information about the Merdinian school, the campus, its school curriculum, and the faculty.

LUCY JANJIGIAN — ARTIST



"Curbside" (from Lucy Janjigian's "The Homeless Series").

ALICE ODIAN KASPARIAN: RECIPIENT OF ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Massachusetts Artists Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was established in 1973 to enhance the careers of promising artists. The Foundation is most widely known as the administrator of the prestigious Artists Fellowship Program for the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

This year a panel of judges from Connecticut, Maine, Maryland and New Hampshire examined the submitted works of art and made their selections. Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian won the award in the Folk Arts category.

Richard Weisberg, President of the Board of Trustees, and Kathleen Brandt, Acting Director, in congratulating Alice Odian Kasparian, wrote, "We are delighted to inform you that you have been selected to receive a \$9,500 Fellowship Award in the Folk Arts category of the Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Program. Your Fellowship Award is an investment in your career as an artist. You may use the fund in any way you see appropriate to advance your artistic endeavors." They added, "You clearly represent an extraordinary strong tradition of excellence in your field... On behalf of the panelists, Trustees of the Artists Foundation, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and Fellowship Staff, we congratulate you on your outstanding achievement and wish you continued success."

Since 1950, Alice Odian Kasparian has

devoted much of her time, her energy and her finances introducing Armenian Arts and Crafts, such as needlework and embroidery, to the American public.

Last year she was invited to exhibit at the 50th Anniversary of the National Folk Arts Festival held at Lowell's National Historical Park in Lowell, MA.

She has displayed Armenian needlelace and has lectured at various museums, such as Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and Harvard's Peabody Museum. She has, on several occasions, exhibited Armenian needleart and other crafts at the Boston International Institute's "Whole World" Festivals and Celebrations.

Mrs. Kasparian has never hesitated to give freely of her time and efforts, contributing to many American as well as Armenian organizations. Her work has been exhibited at Boston City Hall, at women's clubs, arts and crafts shows and at various libraries in nearby cities and towns. She has appeared on television many times. Her needlelaces and embroideries have been displayed at St. Vartan Cathedral Center in New York and at other prominent churches, as well as at conventions held by such groups as the AGBU and the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

Some members of the Artists Fellowship staff, having seen the lovely Armenian laces made by Alice Odian Kasparian, had invited her to apply for the



Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian
1989 Fellowship Award. "We are familiar with your exquisite creations and think you are eligible for our Fellowship Award. We are sending you a form, all you have to do is to answer the questions on the form and send us a sample of your work," they urged. She submitted the form and a lovely Armenian needlelace doily she had made. That doily won her the \$9,500 Fellowship Award.

Alice Odian Kasparian is the author of a volume titled "Armenian Needlelace and Embroidery," published by EPM Publishers and available from, among other sources, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

REPORT OF AN AMAA - SUPPORTED SCHOOL IN LEBANON

Editor's Note: The following report on the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Ainjar Lebanon (AEssa), was received from the Rev. Hovhannes M. Sarmazian, Principal of the school. AEssa is one of the 14 Armenian schools that receive regular annual AMAA grants totaling \$360,000 to continue their vital mission to our young generation in the troubled countries of the Middle East.

Once more we offer our grateful thanks to our Heavenly Father for His blessings, love and concern this past year.

In the 1988-89 academic year our staff included 20 full-time and 6 part-time teachers. Our student enrolment numbered 325, 17 more than last year, in the following categories:

Kindergarten	52
Elementary	138
Secondary	135

Our student body is composed of 192 day students and 133 boarding students. Day students come primarily from the village of Ainjar. Boarding students are mostly from Beirut, with a few from Syria. Most of our boarders are from needy or broken families; they include 34 orphans who have lost both parents during the prolonged civil war in Lebanon. One of our orphans, Vartivar, is a 14-year-old boy in the 7th grade; his sister, Maral, is



Teachers and students of the Daily Vacation Bible School of Ainjar, Lebanon (summer, 1989).

two years younger and in the 5th grade. They used to live with their parents and two siblings in the Eshrefieh district of Beirut. One day the family moved to another part of the city that the parents considered "safer." That very night a bomb struck the house, killing the parents and two younger children. Vartivar and Maral miraculously survived and were brought to our boarding school. Many other students have similarly distressing stories to tell. We thank God that we have a boarding school that can provide cost-free food, shelter and an education for such children.

Our goal, which we strive to reach each year, is to give our young people a Christian education. In addition to our academic curriculum, we offer the children daily morning chapel services; messages from the word of God delivered by various believers; regular Bible classes; Sunday School classes; and a students' Bible Club, which organizes Christmas and Easter celebrations as well as other religious activities. Last Christmas our children got together and agreed to offer their Christmas gifts to the children in Soviet Armenia whose families were shattered by the devastating earthquake of December 7, 1988.

Despite the intense fighting in Lebanon

throughout the Spring, we in Ainjar suffered only minor interruptions. Thanks to God, we finished our academic year on schedule and held our commencement exercises on June 24, 1989. This year 19 students graduated from our kindergarten division, 23 from the elementary school

and 9 from our high school.

We offer our praise and thanksgiving to God for his care and protection. We also thank all the charitable organizations and friends who so lovingly give us moral and financial support. Without such help, we could do little.

BIBLES FOR ARMENIA

The Armenian Missionary Association of America, along with its \$2,000,000 relief and rehabilitation program for the victims of the earthquake of December, 1988, is making every effort to deliver as many Bibles as possible to Armenia for distribution to our people. After successfully delivering more than 27,000 Bibles, the AMAA, in cooperation with the Armenian Evangelical Union of France and the International Bible Society, will provide 40,000 Bibles and 50,000 children's New Testaments for distribution in Armenia. This is a historic opportunity to make the comforting and reviving Word of God available to our people in our "Myre Hairenik."

WILL YOU HELP?

Your gifts will help to meet the challenge of sending more Bibles to Armenia. Please fill in the coupon below and mail it today.

Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.

140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Yes, I want to share in the "Bibles for Armenia" project.
Enclosed is my gift of \$_____.

Name _____

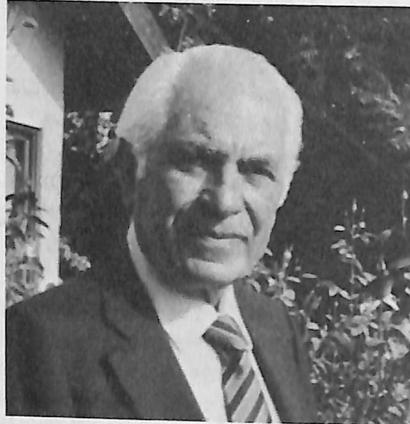
Address _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to AMAA. All gifts are tax deductible.

OBITUARIES

KOURKEN SALIBIAN



father treated his own siblings. He was a quiet and private man, and yet I knew from a few words he'd say that the depth of his love for his brothers and sisters was untouched by time or distance. For instance, he hadn't seen Uncle Souren for over 40 years, and yet the instant the latter moved to California, to Kourken he was his brother just as before. This too has given me a larger family to be part of.

As difficult as his dying was, in his last two weeks he was still giving us gifts. Nothing could stop him from loving, not the stroke that took away his speech, not immobility, not pain, and not death standing at his bedside. There was a moment last week when he was in his hospital bed unable to move anything but his head. He gave me his eyes, which let me see deep into the well of him. They emanated a power that took me a moment to comprehend. Oh, I said, I understand what you're saying! You're saying you love me! He blinked an Armenian yes.

Another facet of my father gave me an even greater gift: he let me love him. He demonstrated that if a heart isn't open to letting love in, then it can't let it out either. He taught me how to accept love, and no one can give me more than that. He wanted my love, he accepted it in full measure; he left me feeling full and satisfied because in the end there was no emptiness between us.

I am sure my brother and sister would say the same thing. As for my mother, it has been like that for her for a long, long time.

ERMANCE VERIAN REJEBIAN

Ermance Verian Rejebian died on September 29, 1989. She was one of the first professional book reviewers in the Southwest, educating Dallas radio audiences for more than 50 years.

Specializing in the classics, historical works and biographies, she began reviewing books in 1936 and developed a loyal following of listeners, including those in 39 Rejebian book review clubs established solely to hear her reviews.

In 1951 she was honored as one of the nine Outstanding Women of the Southwest by Time magazine.

A native of Bursa, Turkey, Mrs. Rejebian came to the United States when she was 4. Of Armenian descent, she began reviewing books in the 1930's after hearing a review of a book about a Turkish offensive that killed 1.5 million Armenians. She felt the reviewer had failed to put the book into proper historical perspective, so she began to try reviewing it herself.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Vahram Y. Rejebian; a daughter, Mary Northerm; a son, Myron Rejebian; six grand-

Kourken Salibian, the seventh child of Dr. Hampartzoum and Zarouhi Salibian, was born in Adana, Turkey, in 1912. In 1919 the Salibian family moved to Beirut, where Kourken attended the Armenian Evangelical College and later the Lycee Francais of Beirut, Lebanon, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

In 1935 Kourken went to Casablanca. After ten years of hard work he became a successful and respected businessman. He returned to Beirut in 1945 and married Agnes Artinian, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Haig Artinian. The couple returned to Casablanca, where they set up a home and were blessed with three children, Ara, Anais and Cathy.

Kourken Salibian, seeking a better place for his children's future, emigrated to the United States and settled in Long Island, New York, where the Salibians lived for 25 years. In 1981, after a long and successful business career, Kourken moved with his family to Thousand Oaks, CA. He lived in Thousand Oaks until his recent death, enjoying the love and respect of his family, relatives and many friends.

The following is a testimony shared by Kourken's daughter, Anais Salibian, at the funeral services for her father.

There were no limits to the family my father took into his heart and home. We are an Armenian family, and that means two things. First, we've been chased around the world by violence, by necessity, and by choice. Second, we have survived and flourished by being for and with each other. Whenever there was a relative who was uprooted and needed to start over again in a new country, my father's door was open. This gave me the richness of growing up with aunts and uncles who were like immediate family to me. Kourken Ba was a patriarch in the best sense of the word—he watched over us all.

There was another gift to me in the way my



Mrs. Ermance Verian Rejebian

children and a great-grandson; and a sister, Shake Berberian.

An active supporter of the AMAA, she donated tapes to benefit AMAA educational projects. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to **AMAA, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ, 07652.**

SOURAN TASHJIAN

Mr. Souran C. Tashjian, 93, of Lansingburgh (Troy), NY, died on September 4, 1989.

Born in Harput, Armenia, during the massacre of Christians in Asia Minor by the Turks, he and his family came to the United States in 1897; they settled in Troy, NY, where Mr. Tashjian spent most of his life.

Mr. Tashjian was a graduate of Troy High School and for ten years studied voice under S. Grahame Nobbes at the Emma Willard Conservatory. He was a bass soloist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir in Troy for over 25 years and was a 25-year member of the Troy Vocal Society.

Mr. Tashjian was also a supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and was a past president of the Troy branch of A.S.A., as well as past vice president of the New York branch of A.S.A.

Mr. Tashjian worked at the Troy Collar Company, a family-owned business, and was a salesman for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for the eight years preceding his retirement in 1963.

Surviving are his wife, Clara Aiken Bennett Tashjian; a stepson, Theodore R. Bennett; a sister, Margaret Boyajian; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO VIOLET AJOOTIAN

Submitted by her daughter, Joyce

For all those who knew my mother, they might describe her as a very open, warm, loving, generous, spirited, smiling and cheerful woman. But Violet Ajootian was much more than that, she was also a devoted mother. She lived for her husband and children, always putting us first. She taught my four brothers and me solid values, practicality, the faith of God, love of flowers, the wonder of nature, and, most importantly, all about love.

I remember how she made me feel special because I am her only daughter. Ever since I can remember, she had said, "God was so good to me, He knew I needed a daughter. And after four sons, you are my bonus."

Surviving are his wife, Gladys; two daughters, Janice Fowler and Kathleen Elia, both of Fresno; two brothers, Thomas and Robert, both of Fresno; and two grandchildren.

No doubt we had that special mother-daughter bond, but recently, since her illness, it transcended into something greater. During the past year, despite being sick, she taught me more about love than I ever dreamed possible.

As soon as my mother was diagnosed with the dreaded disease of cancer, I prayed incessantly for a miracle. My prayers were not answered, but it was a "small miracle" that she outlived the predictions of the doctors. This experience has left no doubt in my mind that LOVE HEALS. Never once losing her dignity and spirits, she fought diligently against the disease.

"You must have strong convictions," she would say to me. "Stand up for what you believe in. Be patient. You are strong, you can do it. Always live in hope. God is up there, He sees and knows everything."

These are just a few of her words of wisdom. Yet there are many things she taught me without having to say one word.

The greatest lesson I learned from my mother is that love is the key of life. If you ever see a chance to give it, don't hesitate, don't deny it or ignore it, open up your heart and take a chance.

I believe her virtues live on in the present, as she will always be a part of the family members and close friends she touched so deeply.

Thank you, dear God, she was the best mother one could ask for. Be good to our mother; we will love her forever.

DR. E.G. SARKISIAN

Dr. Edward G. Sarkisian, 89, a Lancaster, PA, dentist for nearly 60 years, died on August 29, 1989.

Born in Aintab, Asia Minor, in what is now Turkey, Dr. Sarkisian became a resident of Lancaster in 1920. After graduating in 1925 from Temple University's Dental School, he set up practice in Lancaster, where he remained

until retiring in 1983.

Dr. and Mrs. Sarkisian, married for 61 years, were volunteers with CARE, Inc.; in 1969, they traveled to Honduras to provide dental care to the poor people in Santa Rosa de Copan.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Callahan Sarkisian; a son, Edward R.; a daughter, Ellen C. Sarkisian; three grandchildren; and a sister, Emelia Ishkanian.

HENRY ELIA

Henry Elia, 86, of Fresno, CA, a retired painting contractor, died Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

Surviving are his wife, Gladys; two daughters, Janice Fowler and Kathleen Elia, both of Fresno; two brothers, Thomas and Robert, both of Fresno; and two grandchildren.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

*DOSDORIAN, SHARON

Daly City, CA June 10, 1989

*JINBASHIAN, MOVSES

Pasadena, CA June 12, 1989

*TUTUNJIAN, HASMIG

Fresno, CA July 15, 1989

*GOENJIAN, LOUTFIK

Los Angeles, CA July 26, 1989

*PELOYAN, SADIE

Orosi, CA August 3, 1989

*SALIBIAN, SOUREN

Los Angeles, CA August 3, 1989

SAHAGIAN, REV. JEAN DANIEL

Marseille, France August 13, 1989

*AVEDIAN, ARNIE

Fresno, CA August 21, 1989

*MARKARIAN, RICHARD

Cincinnati, OH August 27, 1989

*MOVSESIAN, SYRANOUSH

Emerson, NJ August 29, 1989

*SARKISSIAN, EDWARD

Lancaster, PA August 29, 1989

*TASHJIAN, SOURAN

Troy, NY Sept. 4, 1989

*DIRADOURIAN, SIMON

Drexel Hill, PA Sept. 11, 1989

*GARO, GRACE

Fresno, CA Sept. 16, 1989

*SIVASLIAN, PETER M.

Albany, NY Sept. 27, 1989

*REJEBIAN, ERMANCE

Dallas, TX Sept. 29, 1989

*TUSOOSIAN, GRACE

Modesto, CA Oct. 3, 1989

*JAMESON, MARY

Brookline, MA Oct. 14, 1989

*NAZARIAN, MICHAEL

Arcadia, CA Oct. 20, 1989

*BUYUKLIAN, GEORGE

San Francisco, CA Oct. 23, 1989

*TAFJEN, PAUL

Alamo, CA Oct. 30, 1989

*MELKONIAN, MARY

Cliffside Park, NJ Nov. 10, 1989

*MAKSOURIAN, EDWARD

Dec. 18, 1989

*DAGDIGIAN, ROSE

Chicago, IL Dec. 8, 1989

*HADIDIAN, PUZANT

Los Gatos, CA Dec. 17, 1989

*CONSTANTIAN, AVEDIS

Siera Madra, CA Dec. 25, 1989

*AVAKIAN, ROSE

Asbury Park, NJ Dec. 31, 1989

*ISHKANIAN, MARY

Vab Nuys, CA Jan. 15, 1990

*KELYAN, ANNA

Ainjar, Lebanon

*APRIKIAN, TURFANDA

Sao Paulo, Brazil

*ZAKIAN, IRENE

*WEINGARTH, REV. JAMES

Philadelphia, PA

*SALIBIAN, KOURKEN

Thousand Oaks, CA

*CAPELEAN, NEVART

*GABRIELSON, HARPER

Fresno, CA

*ASADORIAN, VEE

Los Angeles, CA

*MOURADIAN, ALBERT

Key Biscayne, FL

*MAGHAKIAN, ARMENOUCHI

Los Angeles, CA

*JOWID, ALBERT

Houston, TX

*RUGZERIAN, ARAX

*OGLUKIAN, RUTH

N. Palm Beach, FL

1000

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WILLS

WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE HAVE WILLS

- Some think they don't have enough property to need a Will.
- Others think that the spouse and the children get everything automatically.
- Most are simply too busy to make their Will.

No one knows the day when the Lord might call one home. And when one dies intestate (without having made a valid Will), the family can get hurt, not just financially, but in many other ways.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MAKING A WILL?

- You exercise your right to determine how your property will be distributed.
- You provide for your heirs in the way you choose.
- You make sure strangers won't distribute your property according to their wishes, whims or opinions.
- You safeguard your property from being distributed to undeserving people.
- You ensure your property is not unduly taxed by the state.
- You make use of the best-known vehicle (a written, valid Will) to make charitable bequests.
- You provide guardians for your minor children.
- You avoid misunderstandings among your family members and heirs.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A WILL?

- Your property is distributed according to the state laws of descent and distribution.
- Your heirs go through a maze of red tape and legalities that a simple Will could avoid.

- Your property will probably not be distributed according to your wishes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR WILL IS NOT VALID?

- The Court will probably try to isolate the invalid parts and carry out your wishes as closely as possible with regard to the rest.
- The court may even set aside your entire Will and proceed as if you had no Will at all.

WHAT COULD MAKE YOUR WILL INVALID?

Lots of things:

- A hand-written Will in a state that does not honor hand-written Wills or valid in the state where you made it, but not in the one you lived in later.
- A Will not properly witnessed (too few witnesses or one of the witnesses also a beneficiary, which is not usually permitted).
- When decedent's heirs have all died.
- When decedent's instructions can be interpreted in several different ways.

To make sure your Will is valid and remains valid, have it drawn up by an attorney, and then have it checked yearly afterwards.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A WILL

- Resolve now to make your Will.
- Sit down in the privacy of your home and make a list of your property and heirs (including addresses); then proceed to write down your wishes.
- And finally, take your notes to your lawyer, and ask him to draw up your Will and make your personal wishes legal.

IF YOU HAVE A WILL NOW, CHECK TO SEE—

- Is it up to date?
- Have you moved to another state since making your Will?
- Do you live now in a community property state?
- Are the beneficiaries still living? Still worthy?
- Do you want to keep the same executor and alternate executors?
- Do you still own the specific properties referred to in your Will?
- Will your estate get full advantage of the marital deduction?

CONTINUE YOUR GOOD WORKS THROUGH A THOUGHTFUL WILL

When you make the transition from this life to Life Eternal, your benevolence and good works need not die. Through a thoughtful Will you can continue your good works and even begin new ones. You do this by including the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in your Will.

- Consider to tithe your estate... giving 10% to the AMAA.
- Consider a gift to AMAA as a living memorial for a loved one.
- Provide a guaranteed life income for a relative or friend through an annuity provision of your Will that also makes a gift to AMAA.
- Designate a specific number of dollars... or a specific percentage of your estate... or the remainder of your estate... to AMAA.

NOTE: When you name a charity in your Will, be sure to use its full, legal, incorporated name.

Armenian Missionary Association of America
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Paramus, NJ 07652

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